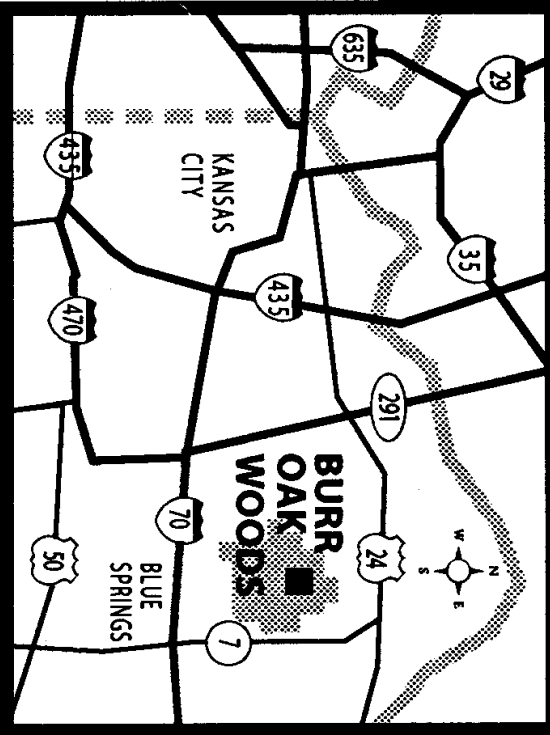


LEARN MORE ABOUT BURR OAK WOODS BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT:
WWW.BURROAKWOODS.ORG



BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and noon to 5 PM on Sundays. **Area Hours: front gate 8 AM to 5 PM.** No pets allowed. There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766**

Burr Oak Woods
Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015
Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268
Fax: 816-655-6267

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The Nutsnell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center
Volume 18 **November 2004** Number 11

“In Focus”

Sunday, November 14, 1:30 p.m.

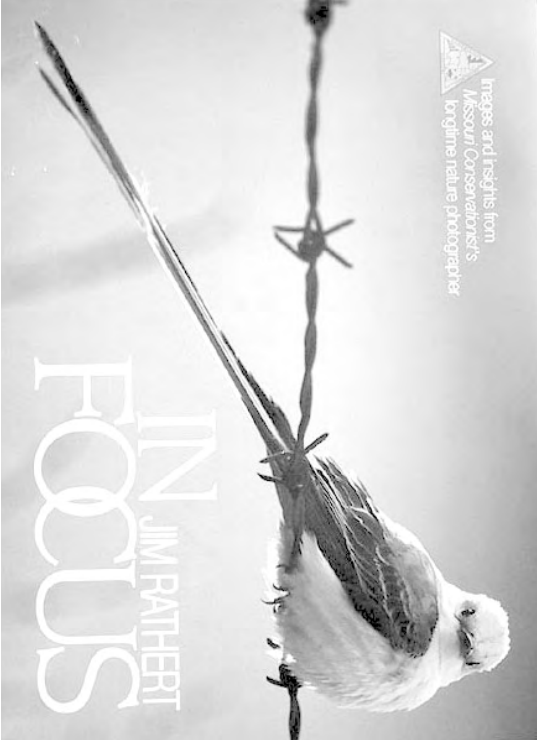
Join Missouri Department of Conservation photographer, Jim Rathert, for a special presentation on his photographs followed by a book signing for his new book.

A Lifelong Focus, Jim Rathert

Jim Rathert was exposed to the power of pictures early in life. He was an avid reader of *Missouri Conservationist* while growing up in his Columbia, Missouri, home. As a Cub Scout, he remembers Conservation Department filmmaker Charles W. Schwartz showing a conservation film at an awards ceremony. “I said to myself, ‘I’ve got to do that,’” he recalls. Slowly, patiently, he set out to become the *Conservationist* photographer.

Jim received a bachelor’s degree in education at the University of Missouri, and spent 10 years doing a variety of field biology projects for the Conservation Department. He left the agency briefly to work out of state. In 1984, a photography position became available and he returned to Missouri to fulfill his boyhood dream. Each month, his photographs speak volumes about conservation value to the hundreds of thousands of Conservationist readers. “It just shows that by staying on focus to make things happen, often they do,” Jim says.

He lives in Jefferson City with his wife, Debbie and their two children, Josh and Jadrien.



Attention:

Burr Oak Woods Visitor

November:

Monday - Wednesday

November 8th, 9th & 10th

The area and trails will be Closed
5:00 a.m.to 6:00 p.m. to all foot and vehicle traffic due to our annual managed archery hunt. Visitors are welcome to enjoy the Nature Center 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Give the gift

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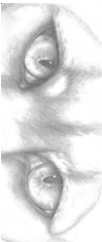


Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!



WELCOME TO BH

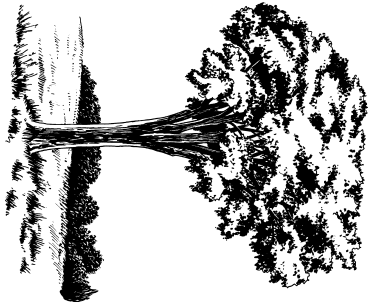
Thank You!



Thank you to HyYee for donating ice cream for our Ice Cream Social in October. It was a perfect way christen the new building.

Thank you to Cosentino's PriceChopper, Stephenson's Restaruant and McDonald's for their donations for our Friday Night Live, Eyes in the Woods. Lots of fun was had by all!

~ Naturalist Notebook ~



The air is cool and crisp now, and the green has slowly drained from the leaves, leaving behind the true colors of yellows, oranges, and reds. November is here and with it comes the piles of leaves to jump in, the fragrance that only autumn brings, and the traditions that our nation has celebrated for over two hundred years.

Our family has special traditions, too, and this time of year reminds me of some of my favorite memories. Ever since I can remember on Thanksgiving morning my dad and brothers have gotten up early and readied themselves for their annual hunt.

While the boys are washing the sleep out of their eyes, dad is cooking up a batch of his very special "Top Jimmy's Eggs," his own concoction of a type of egg casserole. (Don't even ask me how it's made. I've never been able to replicate it, even though I've stood beside him and watched him make it a hundred times.) This is one morning the girls in the family get to sit and watch the fun.

This tradition has gone on so long that it now includes my own son and the son's of my brothers', my husband and brother's in law. It's now become a right of passage into adulthood. You know you're becoming a man when you can go hunting on Thanksgiving morning with "The guys." The rule is you have to walk the first year without carrying a gun. Then after that, you can carry a gun if your dad and granddad say you're worthy and

ready. Not everyone carries a gun, either. Some carry a camera,

and some just walk to be part of the group.

My dad now has a 15 year-old German short hair pointer, Tessa, who joins them. Tessa always knows when they're going hunting. I don't know if it's the crisp air or the smell of their clothes, but on this morning alone, she's in the midst of things so excited she's shaking. She whimper's from person to person, almost speaking out loud, "Is today the day? Are we going hunting? Do we all get to go? Don't leave me behind!" As soon as my dad gets out her whistle it's all over with. She begins yelping and jumping about.

And then, in a flutter, they're all out the door, boys, dads, dog, and granddad. Quietness fills the house. Then "The women" begin to prepare the feast. Whatever is harvested that day is saved and served for Christmas dinner. On Thanksgiving night around the dinner tables, stories are shared about the day's adventures.

This tradition has been occurring in our house for over 35 years. I look back on these fond memories and think about the new ones around the corner and am thankful for the gifts of family and friends, and for the freedoms we have here. The opportunity to be with family, to enjoy nature, to harvest from the land. I hope you enjoy your holiday this year, and the traditions you may have with your family.

Shynn

— LYNN YOUNGBLOOD
Nature Center Manager

Critter Corner

White-tailed Deer

It's that time of year again! It's time to break out your Carhartts® and blaze orange vests and head for the woods. Fall Firearm deer season gets underway this month and thousands of hunters will go in search of the white-tailed deer, but more than half of the hunters will come home empty handed. Why? Deer hunting is harder than many people realize.

White-tailed deer are cautious creatures and are continuously wary for danger. They have great eyesight and can see quite well at night. Deer also have excellent hearing and are leery of strange sounds. A deer can locate the direction of an odd sound by rotating its ears while standing completely still. Something else to consider is that the white-tailed deer's sense of smell is 4,000 times more sensitive than ours! Deer will also alert each other of potential danger by a simple flick of the tail. So even if the deer you have in your sights doesn't hear, smell, or see you, another nearby deer could tip off your prey. In spite of all these challenges, many hunters will still sight in their rifles in hopes of bagging a big one. To aid our fellow deer hunters and to enlighten other curious souls, here are some tips to maximize potential deer sightings.

Be sure to scout your hunting location well before opening day. You should plan on being in your spot before the deer become

active (at dawn and dusk) to study their travel patterns and get an idea of the population density. You can also walk the deer trails and look for fresh tracks and droppings to estimate activity level. Deer are creatures of habit and will usually use the same paths to travel from feeding grounds to resting areas, so it's a good idea to set up your stand near one of these trails. Don't do your scouting too close to hunting season or you risk leaving a scent trail that could alter the deer's travel patterns. Some hunters also wear rubber boots to minimize their scent path.

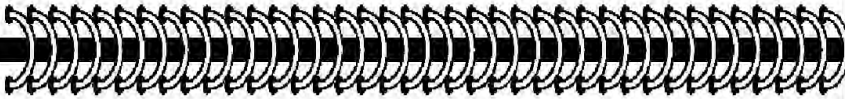
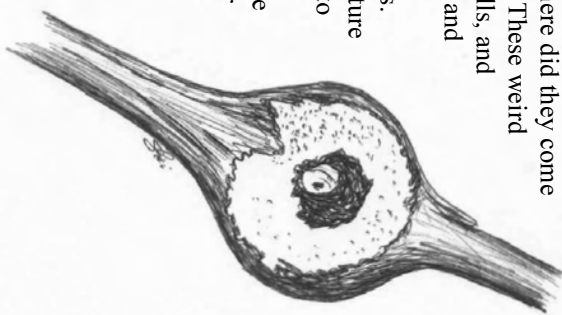
On hunting day: try to position yourself downwind from the deer trail (usually south or east) to prevent the deer from smelling you before you can get a good shot. You need to be in your stand and ready when the sun rises. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing to enable you to stay out as long as possible. Since deer are more active during this time you are more likely to spot one the longer you stay in the woods.

Good luck to all the deer hunters heading out this month. I hope this critter corner has helped you learn a little more about white-tailed deer and increases your odds of filling your tag. If you do bag a deer this fall and would like to donate the meat, you can stop by the nature center or visit Share the Harvest web site for more information at www.confedmo.com -*Diane Neal*

The Amazing Adaptation of the Gall Fly

Have you taken a stroll at Burr Oak Woods lately? If so, did you notice the weird looking balls on various trees and wildflowers? Where did they come from? What caused them? These weird looking balls are called galls, and come in a variety of shapes and colors.

Galls are insect nurseries. They are formed when mature insects insert their eggs into the stalk or leaf of a plant. The plant grows around the egg providing it shelter for the developing insect to feed and grow. The gall is an adaptation giving vulnerable, growing insects the protection they need while usually not harming the plant.



Depending upon the species, the insect emerges later in the same year or the following spring after the egg is placed in its host plant; the mature insect chews a hole to escape and leaves to find food and to mate.

Insects aren't the only thing that cause galls on trees and plants. They are also made by bacteria, fungus, and viruses. Galls come in a variety of colors. Some galls are brown, orange, yellow, green or white. Their shapes and sizes vary, too. Pine tree galls have the texture of a human brain and are a little bigger than a quarter. They are round and can be found on the branches of pines. Some galls have spines and are the circumference of a pencil.

There are more than 2,000 species of gall insects. The identity of the gall maker can be determined by looking at the shape, color and texture of the gall, and also by the species of the host plant. If you are looking for some autumn fun, you have got 2,000 types of galls to identify. Better get started!

— Sheri Medlock & Jenna Rhodes

Nature Shop News

November Featured Product

Great Gift Idea for Youngsters
Childrens Book
Fox in the Forest

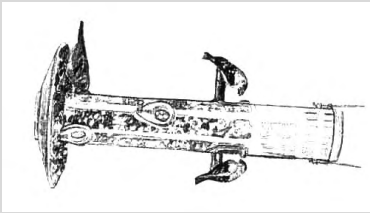
Regular Price \$8.00
Featured Price \$6.40

Heritage Card Discount
Does Not Apply



- Natural Happenings -

- November is a great month to visit your local rivers, lakes and wetlands. Many waterfowl populations are at their peak including canvassback, redhead, scaup, merganser and ring-neck duck.
- Bird Lover Alert: It's time to set up your winter feeding station. Many winter birds are beginning to visit backyard feeders.
- Many Missouri mammals are seeking shelter for winter.
- Pecan Lovers Rejoice! You can begin collecting pecans as they drop from trees.





Flora-bunda



Poison Ivy (Toxicodendron radicans)

- Occurs in floodplains and upland forests on level and sloping ground, along streams, thickets, along fence rows, roadsides, and railroads; throughout Missouri.
- May be a low, upright shrub or a vine up to 60 feet high.
- Produces clusters of small, greenish-white, fragrant flowers in May and June.
- From August to November you will find clusters of creamy-white, waxy, globe-shaped berries.
- While all parts of the plant may cause mild to severe skin irritation in humans, it does not affect the animals of Missouri.
- Humans can be affected by poison ivy at any time of the year.
- The fruit is eaten by at least 75 species of songbirds, in addition to wild turkey, bobwhite quail, and ruffed grouse. The plants are browsed on by white-tailed deer.



We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call 816-229-4448 to register for these special programs.

Lake City Range Programs

816-229-4448
28900 E Argo Road
Grain Valley, Mo 64029

Deer Season Seminar

November 3, Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

For novice hunters this class will answer some of the basic questions about deer hunting. Class will cover stand placement, equipment, scouting, safety, regulations and more.



Registration is required by calling 816-229-4448.

Bird Feeders from Household Items

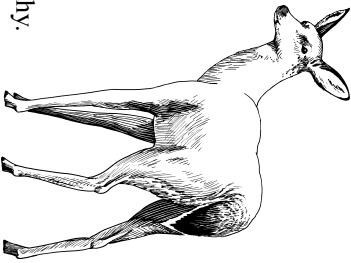
November 17, Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Join us as we construct bird feeders out of common household items. It should be a creative and rewarding day for you and your feathered friends.

Registration is required by calling 816-229-4448.

Did You Know?

- Before 1937 there were less than 400 White-tailed deer in Missouri and now there are over 1 million.
- Bobwhites have an annual mortality rate of 75% to 85%, whether they are hunted or not.
- License fees and taxes on sports equipment hunters and anglers purchase contribute an average of \$3 million each day to wildlife conservation.
- Regulated hunting seasons and bag limits keep animal populations in check and healthy.



ATTENTION HOMESCHOOL PARENTS!

Homeschool parents – do you ever feel, out of the loop, when it comes to natural science content? Do you have problems coming up with creative ideas to help your student succeed? Are you in need of resources to supplement your homeschool curriculum? If you answered yes to any of the previous questions then join us November 17 from either 10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m. to refresh your memory on ecological/biological concepts and to receive a helpful packet full of information and resources.

Please call to register.



Lewis and Clark Journal



Close your eyes and imagine what it must have taken for the Corps of Discovery to survive the harsh conditions presented by the wilderness of the western United States. Horrible weather, awful pests such as mosquitoes, dangerous rapids and sandbars were all things that the Corps had to face. Something that may have escaped your thought was the feeding of such a large group of people every day. Even the huge amounts of supplies that Lewis secured did not come close to covering the needs of the men. How do you suppose the men ate for those two years they were away from their homes? By hunting of course.

However, instead of telling you about what they hunted and ate, I would like to share some information about an interesting tool that was used by the two captains. This tool was called an esponentoon or spontoon. Historically, this spear-shaped weapon was carried by European and American army officers in the eighteenth century as a mark of their rank. This instrument measured in at six feet long with a ten to twelve inch double-edged blade at the fore end. Behind this blade was a crossbar measuring nine to ten inches in length. The shaft of the weapon was made of wood and the butt end was covered by a metal cap to prevent wear.

The esponentoon became seen as a valuable tool to officers because it allowed them to keep their eyes on their men and their hands in the fight, instead of spending valuable time reloading guns. Also

battlefields were not quiet places and so orders were often unheard. The esponentoon was raised allowing for orders to be given with signals (instead of words) to troops who were out of earshot of their commanding officers.

During the expedition, the esponentoon wasn't always used as a weapon. Lewis and Clark most often used them as walking sticks when traveling unexplored places. They also came in handy as rifle stands. The rifles that the Corps of Discovery used weighed over eight pounds and had a four foot barrel. This crossbar helped support that handful of a firearm.

There were several situations in which the esponentoon proved life-saving. According to the Lewis and Clark journals, Clark killed a wolf with his esponentoon in May of 1805. Several days before that event Lewis had used his to kill a rattlesnake before it struck him. Possibly the most well known event involving esponentoon was Lewis' encounter with a grizzly bear. Being pursued, Lewis ran into the river and quickly turned around to face the bear with his bladed weapon. Upon seeing the man's defense the bear gave up, turned around and headed for the hills. Without this weapon to save the Captains' lives the expedition might have been over well before it had even begun.

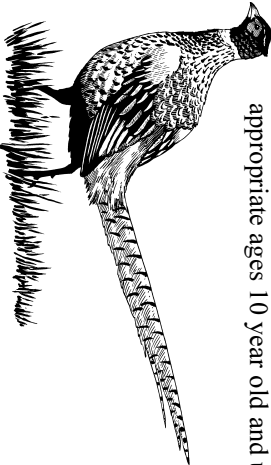
-Jenna Rhodes

Lewis & Clark Programs

Fare for the Expedition

Friday, November 12
7:00 p.m.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition provided a wealth of information about the plants and animals west of the Mississippi. Journal entries record the foods that kept the travelers alive during their trek. Through anecdotes and documentation, Nancy Lewis and Anne Mallinson will share information about provisions, both the supplies taken for the journey and the wild plants and animals utilized along the way. Food samples and handouts will be available. Please call to register, seating is limited. This program is appropriate ages 10 year old and up.



Lewis & Clark:

A Dog's Eye View

Friday, December 3
7:00 p.m.

Explore the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery through the eyes of Seaman, the first dog to make the 7000 mile journey across the continent. The *Puppetry Arts Institute* will present a 45-minute puppet show including marionettes of Seaman, Lewis and Clark, York, Sacagawea, and a French trapper, plus hand and shadow puppets. Please call to register. This is sure to be a fun program, it is appropriate for ages 5 year old and up.



Program Registration

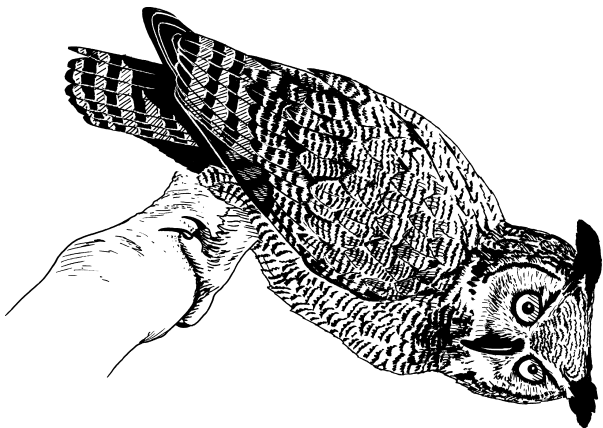
Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268) on or after the first of the month to register for the **FREE** programs list on this page. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

5 Friday

Prowlin' for Owls

We'll have a hootin' good time as we search and listen for great-horned and barred owls in the woodlands of Burr Oak Woods. Learn about these denizens of the dark, dissect an owl pellet and learn to hoot like a real owl. Please call to register and be sure to dress for being outside.

Ages: Families (children 8 and up)
Time: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.



6 Saturday

Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

Turkey Wild!

We will be talking turkey! Come and join us as we learn the fascinating world of the turkey. If we are lucky, we might see one up close! You will leave this program gobbling! Please call to register.

Ages: All ages
Time: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

6 Saturday

Tales n' Trails

Wouldn't you love to sleep all winter? Many animals do just that, hibernate. First, we'll go for a hike outside to explore the forest, looking for any animals not sleeping the winter away. When we finish exploring, we'll return inside for some warm apple cider and a good book entitled "Time to Sleep" by Denise Fleming. Everyone will make a bear story book to take home. Please call to register.

Ages: 5-7
Time: 10:30 a.m. - Noon

8 Monday - 10 Wednesday

Managed Archery Hunt

The Burr Oak Woods area and trails will be closed to all public foot traffic. The nature center will be open and available 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Ages: All ages
Time: 5:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

8 Monday - 10 Wednesday

Adults Only:

Craft Days

See details on page 6. Please call to register.
Ages: Adults Only (18 and up)
Times: 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
or 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

9 Tuesday

Conservation Kid's Club:

Holiday Play Preparation

Join the group as we plan for our second annual holiday play. We will discuss practice times and pass out roles. We will have two performances:

Burr Oak Woods Nature Center on Tuesday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. Please call to register.
Ages: 7-10
Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

12 Friday

Lewis & Clark:

Fun for the Expedition

See details on page 3. Please call to register seating is limited.

Ages: Families (children 10 and up)
Time: 7:00 p.m.

13 Saturday

Babes in the Woods

During this session we will share ideas and activities to help your infant or toddler take steps down the path to discovering the outdoor world during winter. This will be the last session until March. Please bring your stroller. Please call to register.

Ages: Infant - 2 years old
Time 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

13 Saturday

Missouri Conservation Frontiers:

Bark and Leaf Rubbings

Join us as we hike the Missouri Tree trail and learn to identify the trees of Missouri. As you learn different trees, we will make bark and leaf rubbings you can take home with you! Dress to be outside. Please call to register.

Ages: All ages
Time: 10:30 a.m. - Noon

14 Sunday

Hiking Club

Join Burr Oak Woods volunteers for their monthly hike to explore the natural world of the metropolitan area. Be sure to bring water and wear sturdy boots. Please call to register.

Ages: Adults (18 and up)
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

14 Sunday

"In Focus"

Jim Rathert

See details on front page.
Please call to register.

Age: All Ages
Time: 1:30 p.m.



16 Tuesday

Little Acorns:

We're Goin' on the Bear Hunt

It is almost time for WINTER! How do we prepare ourselves for the cold? Do the wild animals ever get too cold? How do they prepare for the long cold winter? Where oh where do the bears go? We will find out during this activity filled program. Please bring a small teddy bear to include in your take home craft. Please call to register.

Ages: 3-5
Time: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

17 Wednesday

HomeSchool Parents Workshop:

Science Literacy

See details on page 6. Please call to register.
Ages: HomeSchool Parents
Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

17 Wednesday

Homeschool:

Naturally Sense-sational

Close your eyes...what do you hear...smell...feel? Now open them...what do you see? Come out and explore all the sounds, smells, textures, and sights that nature has to offer! Dress for the weather. Please call to register.

Ages: 3 - 5 and 6 - 8
Times: 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

17 Wednesday

Homeschool:

Navigation Basics: Map and Compass

It is important for outdoor enthusiasts to be able to navigate within the wilderness. When we hike or canoe, we do not travel in a straight line. We follow the terrain or the river. It is very easy to become disoriented or to get lost. You cannot work without the proper tools. By learning to use a map and compass, you will be able to explore with new found confidence and freedom! Dress for being outside. Please call to register.

Ages: 9-11 and 12 and up
Time: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

19 Friday

Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

Deer Me!

White-tailed deer are the largest animal you can see at Burr Oak Woods, but what else do you know about them? During this program you will get to feel deer fur, touch an antler and go on a walk looking for deer. Dress for being outside and come have fun! Please call to register.

Ages: All ages
Time: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

20 Saturday

Bird in the Hand

Join us for an up-close look at the songbirds that visit the birdfeeding station at Burr Oak Woods. We'll be capturing, identifying, banding and releasing songbirds, from juncos and chickadees to downy woodpeckers and goldfinches. And, thanks to the generous support of Antoine Seed Co., the birds won't be the only ones feasting at the feeders. Antoine's will provide donuts, muffins and juice for early birds, the human kind that is. No registration is required for this hands-on, educational program.

Ages: Families (children 3 and up)
Time: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

20 Saturday

Little Acorns:

We're Goin' on the Bear Hunt

It is almost time for WINTER! How do we prepare ourselves for the cold? Do the wild animals ever get too cold? How do they prepare for the long cold winter? Where oh where do the bears go? We will find out during this activity filled program. Please bring a small teddy bear to include in your take home craft. Please call to register.

Ages: 3-5
Time: 1:00 - 2:15 p.m.

20 Saturday

Nature Nuts

This month will find us flapping our way into the world of birds. We'll make a recycled birdfeder, learn the basics of identifying birds and even meet a few up close and personal. Bring a clean recyclable container such as a milk jug, 2 liter pop bottle etc. Please call to register.

Ages: 7-10
Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

25 Thursday - 26 Friday

Thanksgiving Holiday

The Nature Center and Area will be closed in observation of this holiday.

Fall Movie Fest

So now that your bellies are full and your wallets are thin it's time to head out to Burr Oak Woods "Cinema" for a fun family film. No registration required.

27 Saturday

Time: 10:00 a.m.

FEATURING:

Charlotte's Web

Time: 1:00 p.m.

FEATURING:

The Man From Snowy River

28 Sunday

Time: 1:00 p.m.

FEATURING:

Adventure of Nattie Gann



December

3 Friday

Lewis and Clark:

A Dog's Eye View

See details on page 3. Please call to register.
Ages: Families (children 5 and up)
Time: 7:00 p.m.

24 Friday - 26 Sunday

Christmas Holiday

The Nature Center and Area will be closed in observation of this holiday.